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Digest of Comments on Proposed Functions Statement, 9 February 1951

Materials Division:

Para. 6, page 2:

"Prepare timely research reports on specific subjects, including foreign economic capabilities and vulnerabilities."

Last paragraph, last page:

Delete underlined words from last paragraph:

". . . and countermeasures, and United States foreign economic programs and foreign economic capabilities and vulnerabilities."

Industrial Division:

(Nil further comment)

Economic Services Division:

1. The basic mission statement given in the first sentence might, in our view, be a little clearer as to O/RR function if reworded somewhat as follows:

"The Economic Division will study, advise and report on the economy of the Soviet Orbit, and where the interests of the United States are concerned, will conduct foreign economic intelligence research and reporting covering other parts of the world."

2. Minor changes are suggested elsewhere. Under subhead 1, the wording might be: "Formulate and transmit---". Under subheads 2 and 3, the word "basic" should be omitted, as tending to imply that O/RR does not deal with current economic intelligence. Under subhead 2, we suggest making the sentence read:

"Provide authoritative research and consultant services within its specialized functional fields under approved Agency programs."

3. Subhead 4 should preferably be changed to read as follows:

"Under general supervision of the AD/RR to take measures to coordinate research and reporting activities of governmental and other agencies in economic fields of common concern, and to set up IAC committees for this purpose."

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4. The last line of subhead 5 -change "their" to "its".
5. The third line of subhead 8, strike out "reports of such assessments", and substitute "comments".
6. Under "Economic Services Division" (page 3), change the statement to read as follows:

"To provide consultant and research services, analyses and estimates pertaining to the economics, logistics and governmental control of traffic and transportation, communications, trade and finance, labor and manpower, construction, and electric power, and also to study foreign economic organizations and programs."

7. The fourth line of the "Economic Analysis Division" statement of function should have the words "overall appraisals of" added between the "and" and "foreign" to make clear that no duplication of the individual appraisals to be made by Economic Services Division and others is here intended, but that instead there is to be made a synthesis of the individual commodity or service statements received from the remaining Economic Divisions.

Economic Analysis Division:

There are several areas of overlap which it may be difficult to avoid in a brief and general statement of functions. For example, under the Industrial Division there is included "qualitative analysis of foreign equipment". This is also one of the functions of the Techniques and Methods Branch of D/A.

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